

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISION OF THE BLIND

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1922

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
22 DERNE STREET

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PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

APPROVED BY THE

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
32 DERNE STREET

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BOSTON, Jan. 20, 1923.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN:— In accordance with the provisions of section 32 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, I transmit to you herewith, for the use of the General Court, the annual report of the Division of the Blind for the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

Respectfully yours,

PAYSON SMITH,
Commissioner of Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BOSTON, Jan. 15, 1923.

Dr. PAYSON SMITH, *Commissioner, Department of Education, State House,
Boston, Mass.*

MY DEAR DR. SMITH:— In accordance with the provisions of section 2 of chapter 69 of the General Laws, I submit to you herewith the annual report of the Division of the Blind for the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES B. HAYES,
Director.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

PAYSON SMITH, *Commissioner of Education*,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

FREDERICK P. FISH, 84 State Street, Boston.
SARAH LOUISE ARNOLD, Simmons College, Boston.
ELLA LYMAN CABOT, 1 Marlborough Street, Boston.
A. LINCOLN FILENE, 416 Washington Street, Boston.
WALTER V. McDUFFEE, Central High School, Springfield.
THOMAS H. SULLIVAN, Slater Building, Worcester.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND NORMAL SCHOOLS.
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.
DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.
DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION.
DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.
DIVISION OF THE BLIND.
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD.
MASSACHUSETTS NAUTICAL SCHOOL.
MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.
BRADFORD DUFFEE TEXTILE SCHOOL, FALL RIVER.
LOWELL TEXTILE SCHOOL.
NEW BEDFORD TEXTILE SCHOOL.

DIVISION OF THE BLIND.

CHARLES B. HAYES of Brookline, <i>Director</i>	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1923
WALTER B. SNOW of Watertown, <i>Secretary</i>	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1926
Mrs. WILLIAM W. TAFF of Brookline	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1925
EDWARD E. ALLEN of Watertown	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1923
ARTHUR C. COGGESHALL of New Bedford	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1927
JOHN D. W. BODFISH of Hyannis	.	.	.	.	Term ends 1924

Regular meetings of the Division are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4 Park Street, Boston.

Telephone, Haymarket 0831.

Private branch exchanges connecting central office and the Cambridge workshops, listed under Massachusetts Division of the Blind. Office, Haymarket 0831, and Industries, University 5753.

FLORENCE W. BIRCHARD, *Superintendent of Employment in Competition with the Seeing.*

IDA E. RIDGEWAY, *Supervisor of Work for Children.*

FRANCIS B. IERARDI, ¹ *Field Worker.*

HELEN E. JOWDERS, *Field Worker.*

LEWIS W. KILBOURN, ² *Field Worker.*

¹ Blind or partially blind.

² Deceased.

THEODORE C. LEUTZ,¹ *Field Worker*.

JOSEPH S. PHELPS,¹ *Field Worker*.

MARY W. RICHARDSON, *Field Worker*.

ROSE E. TRAINOR,¹ *Field Worker*.

FRED V. WALSH,¹ *Field Worker*.

LOUISE C. WRIGHT, *Assistant to Superintendent of Employment*.

GEORGE S. MANSFIELD,² *Sales Agent*.

HELEN F. O'LEARY, *Accountant*.

I. CENTRAL OFFICE.

The central office is located at 4 Park Street, Boston.

Applications may be made at the central office: (1) for information in regard to the various general and special agencies already organized which may be utilized for the benefit of the blind; (2) for home teachers' instruction; (3) for employment; (4) for educational and industrial aid; (5) for financial aid; (6) for the sale of products; (7) for the co-operation in care of children's cases not already provided for by the Nursery for Blind Babies and the Perkins Institution; and (8) for information and co-operation in non-medical work for prevention of blindness and conservation of eyesight.

II. EMPLOYMENT.

There are three general divisions into which the possibilities of employment of the blind naturally fall: (1) among the seeing, either along professional lines, in offices, in shops or otherwise; (2) in shops for the blind; (3) in home industries or individual occupations.

Applications for employment will be carefully considered and every effort made to secure suitable work for the applicants. In the first case, personal effort of one of the Division's representatives will be made on behalf of the applicant. In the second, a position will be secured when possible. In the third, suitable training may be provided by the Division, at its discretion and under such conditions as it shall determine.

III. SALESROOM FOR HOME AND SHOP PRODUCTS OF BLIND LABOR, 4 PARK STREET, BOSTON.

FLORENCE E. CUMMINGS, *Manager*.

IV. CAMBRIDGE INDUSTRIES.

WILLIAM J. MCKEEVER,¹ *General Superintendent of Cambridge Industries for Men*.

Broom, Cambridge Rug and "Wundermop" shops, 273 Green Street, Cambridge.

K. R. SMITH,¹ *Foreman of Mop Shop*.

DANIEL COLLELLA, *Foreman of Broom Shop*.

EDWIN D. STICKNEY,¹ *Manager of Cane Supply Department*.

V. WOOLSON HOUSE INDUSTRIES.

Woolson House Industries for Women, 277 Harvard Street (corner of Inman).
Hand-weaving, chair reseating, etc.

H. FRANCES LEWIS,² *Manager*.

¹ Blind or partially blind.

² Resigned.

VI. "M. C. B." SHOPS.

Pittsfield. — 30 Eagle Street.

WILLIAM L. FOLEY,¹ *Managing Foreman.*

Mrs. FLORENCE S. KILBOURN, *Clerk.*

Lowell. — 159 Moody Street.

HENRY G. BURKE,¹ *Foreman.*

HARRIETT G. MORSE, *Clerk.*

Worcester. — 33 Highland Street.

CHARLES A. STAMP,¹ *Foreman.*

MARY C. KELLEY, *Clerk.*

Fall River. — 418 Second Street.

LAWRENCE P. MANNIX,¹ *Foreman.*

JOSEPH A. DENNIS, *Clerk.*

Chair reseating and broom making are the chief industries of these four shops, which employ only men.

VII. SHOP SCHOOLS AND INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

Instruction in chair seating and broom making is given to a limited number of pupils with a view to home or shop employment in these industries; also in rug, mop, broom making, and in art fabric weaving, as vacancies occur in the various workshops.

VIII. STATE HOME TEACHERS.

JOHN VARS.¹

LILLIAN E. GARSIDE.²

EDWARD E. SCHUERER.¹

MARY E. ROBERTS.¹

MARY F. GRIEVE.¹

MARY THOMPSON.¹

¹ Blind or partially blind.

² Resigned.

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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Commissioner of Education.

The Division of the Blind begs leave to submit the following report covering the fiscal year ended Nov. 30, 1922, under the act creating it (chapter 385, Acts of 1906) and the act re-organizing it (chapter 266, General Acts of 1918).

The Division cannot give aid to blind persons in the form of permanent maintenance, but can give temporary aid, and is empowered to use every effort, with the funds provided for its use, to promote the industrial efficiency of the blind, to find means through which that efficiency may contribute to self-support, and to aid in the marketing of products made by the blind. In addition, the Division endeavors to ascertain, as far as possible, the status and capacity of every blind person in the Commonwealth, and to do all in its power to bring about an amelioration of the condition of those deprived of sight or in danger of such deprivation.

In fulfilling these large responsibilities the Division has endeavored from the beginning to enlist all possible forms of co-operation throughout the State; the assistance of other existing bodies and agencies in locating blind persons and in ascertaining both the causes of their blindness and their capacity for self-help; the co-operation of local communities and industries in assisting their citizens or former workmen toward self-support; the co-operation of boards of health and of other State and local bodies in stamping out, through legislation and education, preventable blindness; the support of the general public in purchasing the products of blind labor and in giving the blind in every way a helping hand; and, above all, the co-operation of the blind themselves in securing for every fellow citizen handicapped through loss of sight that relief from the bondage of idleness and that economic independence which so many blind men and women have by their own courageous efforts secured for themselves.

The importance of this co-operative effort to diminish blindness and to make the blind industrially efficient cannot be overestimated. Since there are 3,888 blind citizens in Massachusetts, besides many others with impaired vision for whom a special oversight and training are most important; since the education of the average blind child costs the Commonwealth ten times as much as the average schooling of the normal child; and since the cost to the community of any blind person who remains for years in idleness is much greater, it is evident that a sound and concerted effort — on the one hand to put a stop to preventable blindness, and on the other to help the blind to help themselves — is bound to result in a great saving of money to the State, to say nothing of the far more important saving in wasted and unhappy lives.

The kind of work demanded being fundamentally that of prevention, whether prevention of loss of sight or prevention of indigence or enforced idleness due to loss of sight, the Division of the Blind is called upon to deal with individual cases and problems each in a special way.

The law providing "that the nurse or other attendant in charge of the child shall report within six hours to the local board of health if one or both eyes of an infant become inflamed, swollen or red, and show an unnatural discharge within two weeks after birth" is practically stamping out blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum in Massachusetts.

The Division, through its agents, ascertains the needs and capacities of every child or adult with seriously impaired vision; places those who are threatened with loss of sight in the way either of arresting that danger or of preparing to be blind; makes the proper connection between the blind child and the agencies which stand ready to educate him; helps to work out, where conditions permit, the life career for the blind adult and secures the proper training; increases the number of such careers available to those without sight; provides opportunities in a wide variety of ways for blind men and women to make marketable goods and dispose of them; and educates the general public to appreciate the fact that persons without sight can, if given intelligent co-operation, make themselves partially or wholly supporting.

EMPLOYMENT IN COMPETITION WITH THE SEEING.

The department of employment in competition with the seeing has been in touch with 208 blind and partly sighted men and women. Of this number, 93 were at work on Nov. 30, 1922; 69 have returned to Perkins Institution and other schools, entered various homes, or have proven themselves too feeble in mind or body to compete with the working world; and the remaining 46 are pending. A detailed report of this department is given in the special reports.

An illustration of independent effort is shown by Miss D——, a delicate but ambitious young lady, who has opened and is now conducting an employment bureau for domestics in her own home in New Bedford, a business venture never before undertaken by any of our blind in this State, and one of the very few lines of home industry offering profitable returns. Miss D—— received many helpful suggestions from a woman engaged in a similar enterprise, and such marked co-operation from the New Bedford Women's Club that little other publicity was necessary. She obtained her license in April, and by summer her office was known throughout the city. Miss D——'s sunny disposition and businesslike manner proved valuable assets in making this new line of employment lucrative, and we see no reason that others cannot follow in her path.

WORK FOR CHILDREN.

Two new classes for conservation of vision have been opened during the year, making 20 classes in the State. There are 261 children enrolled. Twenty-eight pupils in ordinary schools have been supplied with large-type textbooks.

A detailed report of work for children appears in the special reports.

RELIEF.

The work of relief has become an essential part of this Division, and through it we have been able to get into closer personal touch with more individuals than in any other way. Money is a necessary asset toward happiness, and the State can justly feel that the relief given to the blind has brought lasting and real happiness into the lives of many. There are blind people in this State, who for several years have been

depending upon relatives and friends, who now feel that the money given, although it is public money, is given in the spirit of friendliness. It has brought into these lives a ray of sunshine, which none can estimate better than the agent who has had personal contact with the recipient. During the year relief has been granted to 710 individuals. Of this number, 160 are employees of the Division shops. Inasmuch as our relief appropriation for the year was \$86,300, the average amount granted to each person would be approximately \$10 a month. There are 66 persons on the waiting list for relief at the present time. This number added to the 710 already receiving relief will bring the total number of persons in this State who are in need of relief to 776, *which is approximately 20 per cent of the total number of blind persons in the State.* Again we can state that every dollar of the \$86,300 appropriated for relief has gone directly to the blind, not one cent having been used in any expenditure for disbursement.

HOME TEACHING.

What our home teachers, who are themselves blind, have done and are doing for the blind no report can tell. Statistics can never properly represent their efforts. Owing to the condition of her health, Miss Lillian E. Garside tendered her resignation after twenty-two years of faithful service during which time her mind had always been acutely responsive to her work. Every pupil with whom Miss Garside has ever come in contact has felt her strong personality and intelligent understanding of the problem at hand, and service such as she gave could not fail to produce excellent results. While no longer actively engaged in the work of the Division, Miss Garside still has a vital interest in our problems, and is always ready and willing to give her valuable advice.

Miss Mary Thompson who was appointed to fill this vacancy comes to us well prepared; is also a graduate of Perkins Institution; is totally without sight; and for two years earned her living as a typist and dictaphone operator in one of the large business houses of Boston. During the summer she took a special course for home teachers at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Miss Thompson possesses a personality that is indicative of her fitness for the position to which she has been appointed.

STATISTICS OF THE HOME TEACHING DEPARTMENT.

Pupils' Statistics.

Number of pupils enrolled Dec. 1, 1921	156
Number of new pupils taken on during the year	132
Number of old pupils returning for more help	43
Total enrollment	331
Number of pupils finishing work	162
Amount of money earned by pupils during year	\$3,381.38

Teachers' Statistics.

Number of calls made	1,472
Number of lessons given	3,215
Number of letters written	1,275
Number of cards written	431
Number of hours spent in preparation	2,344
Number of hours spent in teaching	3,620
Number of hours spent in traveling	3,936
Number of miles traveled	33,358

SALESROOM.

This department specializes in the selling of products made by the blind in their homes and hand-woven products of the Woolson House shop. In view of the fact that the sales are made in direct competition with the seeing, it is essential that a high standard of merchandise be maintained. The goods are sold on their merits, not on a charitable basis. One hundred eight blind persons (87 women and 21 men) have availed themselves of the use of the salesroom, either for order work or sales of consignment. We have 9 machine stitchers, 7 hand sewers, 64 who consign and fill special orders, and 7 who have done order work in knitting alone. In addition, several blind women have taken advantage of the opportunity to buy material at wholesale prices. Through the medium of the salesroom merchandise has been shipped to Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Georgia and California. These sales indicate the wide scope of distribution of the department.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS.

Educational campaigns, exhibits and sales were held at the Fortnightly Club, Winchester; Jay's, Boston; National Education Association at the Girls' Latin School, Boston; the Clinton

Style Show; New Bedford, Salem and Worcester. In connection with the publicity work 76 lectures were given in 20 cities and towns throughout the State. The types of audience reached were representative, — the Reformatory School for Girls, high school, normal school, church and lay organizations, Rotary Club and several women's clubs. Prior to these campaigns the public had only an abstract idea of what work for the blind really meant. The public helped the blind from an instinctive motive to succor those in need, but little did it understand just what it was all about. These campaigns serve as a powerful medium to remove from the minds of men and women the idea that the blind first, foremost and always are objects of pity. One point specially stressed was the menace of the street beggar. We feel that only through persistent publicity will society realize the social menace it is supporting and how it is hurting the constructive work of all public and private social agencies, but especially has it a demoralizing effect on the work for the blind. Who can tell how far-reaching the promoting of that intelligent understanding and interest in work for the blind may prove to become?

CAMBRIDGE SHOPS.

In view of the keen competition met with and of the dull times during the last sixteen years, it is certainly the highest testimony to the excellence of the work done by the blind that the sales have in this time increased from \$20,612 to \$187,333.82, although the goods are sold wholly on the basis of acknowledged worth. To develop a market so rapidly under adverse conditions, it was essential, not only that the products should be satisfactory, but that the selling be placed on a thoroughly businesslike basis. We have been able to employ this year, through the Cambridge Industries, 108 blind men and women, earning an aggregate wage of \$68,223.79.

While the broom department, being in competition with scores of other shops employing machine processes and sighted labor, costs more to maintain than the rug and mop shops, it should not be overlooked that broom making serves as an excellent occupation for those needing immediate training after becoming blind, and as a place for the partial or entire earning of a living. The number of men employed in the

department is greater than the other departments combined, and the return to the blind is second only to the mop department which is the least expensive to maintain of the Division shops.

Attention should be called to the fact, which is not always understood by both the blind and public, namely, that about half of the blind can be employed only at a loss on manual processes. When the blind or seeing questioner asks why a larger proportion of an appropriation cannot be paid directly to the blind, he must be told the fact, — that manual processes without sight, if they are to result in good marketable products, may be done only under one or more of the following conditions: —

1. More slowly; *i.e.*, most manual processes are much slower without sight than with.

2. With supervision; *i.e.*, sight, and therefore supervision, is necessary to the preparation of marketing almost all finished products.

3. Division of labor; *i.e.*, most processes have some steps, however few, which can be taken only with the aid of sight.

Of the four Cambridge industries, some are stronger for the blind in one respect, some in another, but in the case of none can the market-selling price of the finished products be expected to more than cover the cost of raw material and manufacturing labor. We have labored under a disadvantage, not only of insufficient capital to meet the needs of a growing business, but also, as a State institution, of inability to borrow when other business enterprises would have done so. This shortage of funds has restricted advertising, and has prevented our taking advantage of good values in buying by being forced, on the other hand, to give customers prevailing terms of credit.

Each year a careful study is made of the organized machinery of the industries for the purpose of cutting down operating expenses, and the Division believes that the general cost of operating will be considerably lessened by the fact that the three departments for men have been co-ordinated by Mr. William J. McKeever, superintendent of Cambridge Industries for Men, through whose efforts a building was secured adequate to accommodate all the shops. This move should lessen the

amount of sighted labor required. The sales of finished products in these industries for the year just ended, which amounted to \$187,333.82, represented an increase of \$13,347.13 over those of the year 1921.

WOOLSON HOUSE INDUSTRIES.

The shop occupations for women consist of weaving art fabrics and recaning chairs. Art fabrics, amounting to over \$7,500 have been woven this year, which proves that blind persons under supervision can weave not only skillfully but also produce merchandise of high merit. Chair caning is an industry which blind women can carry on with reasonably satisfactory returns. This shop is small, but serves an important function of our program.

LOCAL SHOPS.

Pittsfield, Fall River, Lowell and Worcester.

The Pittsfield shop was organized to serve three principal objects: —

1. To give employment to the men living in the western part of the State.
2. To serve as a testing place for the industrial abilities of new applicants, and to give an intensive course in the instruction of broom making.
3. To provide a salesroom to dispose of the merchandise of consignors residing in the western part of the State.

The results obtained from the employment and training department gives us unmistakable evidence that we are working in the right direction. The sales from the salesroom are small, comparatively speaking, but it is maintained at very little extra rental and functions as a medium to dispose of the products made in the homes of blind men and women living in that section of the State. It serves also as a splendid feature for publicity. Many people who never recognized the work of the blind before have been brought in closer contact with it.

The Fall River shop has been moved from Stafford Road to more adequate quarters at 418 Second Street. The work of this shop has gone on as usual, furnishing employment to ten men in the broom department and six men in the caning de-

partment. In Lowell and Worcester the sole industry is chair seating. The men have been busy throughout the year and have been able, through the opportunities offered them, to earn their living. These shops carry a small liability and exist for the purpose of maintaining an oversight of the caners, which they could not have if the same work were performed in their own homes. Chair seating is one of the oldest industries for the blind, yet it does furnish employment for a certain number of blind persons unable to do any other line of work.

CASES REPORTED FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

There were 253 cases of blindness reported from the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary during the year. Of these cases, 101 were adults, 81 being new cases and 20 were already known to the Division. Cases were investigated, with the following result: —

Persons well taken care of, nothing Division can do	33
Living on savings	2
Money raised for hospital expenses	1
Relief granted	4
Temporary aid given	1
Home teacher supplied	7
Given employment	2
Self-supporting	13
Suggested employment, has not accepted	1
Given training at shop	1
Pending employment	5
Pending	9
Relief pending	1
Attending Perkins Institution	1
Duplicate	1
Died	1
Unable to locate	11
Not blind	4
Out of State	3
	<hr/>
	101
Ages:	
21 to 50 years	52
51 to 70 years	45
Over 70 years	4

Sex:

Males	66
Females	35

Causes of blindness:

Unknown	3
Optic atrophy	11
Dacryocystitis	1
High myopia	8
Separated retina	9
Corneal opacities	15
Phthisis bulbi	1
Glaucoma	24
Injury	4
Iritis	6
Dislocation of lens	1
Toxic amblyopia	1
Uveitis	3
Choroiditis	3
Retinitis pigmentosa	1
Cataracts	6
Trachoma	1
Iridocyclitis	1
Lateral nystagmus	1
Amblyopia	1

There were also 41 cases reported who had too much vision to be considered by this Division.

CASES REPORTED BY THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT BOARD.

Every case of serious eye trouble coming to the attention of the Industrial Accident Board has been reported to this Division and investigated by our field workers, with the following results: —

Cases reported to this office	163
Cases pending	8
Cases investigated	155
Cases not considered blind (lost sight of one eye only) .	138
Already known to this Division	1
Cases considered blind	3
Doubtful cases (visited and functions of this Division explained in case eye trouble becomes serious) . . .	13

SUPPORT OF DESTITUTE BLIND PARENTS.

Oftentimes in our visitations workers find blind parents who have been wilfully neglected or deserted by their children. Twelve such parents have been supported during the past year by their children in accordance with the following law (chapter 273, section 20, of the General Laws): —

Any person, over twenty-one, who, being possessed of sufficient means, unreasonably neglects or refuses to provide for the support and maintenance of his parent, whether father or mother, residing in the commonwealth, when such parent through misfortune and without fault of his own is destitute of means of sustenance and unable to by reason of his old age, infirmity or illness to support and maintain himself, shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year or both. No such neglect or refusal shall be deemed unreasonable as to a child who shall not during his minority have been reasonably supported by such parent, if such parent was charged with the duty so to do, nor as to a child who, being one of two or more children, has made proper and reasonable contribution toward the support of such parent.

ANALYSIS OF REGISTER OF THE BLIND, NOV. 30, 1922.

Number of cases of blind and partially blind¹ 3,888

Self-supporting (by reason of their own activities or having independent resources)	1,196
Income	452
Lawyer	7
Clergyman	1
Banker	1
Author	1
Teacher	36
Deputy sheriff	1
Town official	1
Lecturer	2
Inventor	1
Reporter	2
Professional reader	3
Professional singer	2
Pianist	11
Proprietor, variety store	30
Proprietor, dry goods store	1
Proprietor, hardware store	1

¹ Partially blind indicates one-tenth of normal vision or less.

Self-supporting, etc. — *Continued.*

Proprietor, music store	3
Proprietor, printing business	2
Proprietor, automobile business	1
Proprietor, plumbing business	1
Proprietor, coal business	1
Proprietor, granite business	1
Proprietor, trucking business	3
Proprietor, yarn shop	1
Proprietor, hair dressing parlor	1
Proprietor, laundry	2
Proprietor, produce business	1
Manufacturer	2
Manager, club house	1
Manager, pool room	1
Department store employee	11
Factory employee	96
Dictaphone operator	14
Switchboard operator	5
Foreman, car barns	1
Piano dealer	2
Cobbler shop	1
Insurance agent	1
Fruit stand	2
News stand	2
Candy stand	1
Cigar stand	1
Florist	1
Nurse	7
Orderly	1
Social worker	8
Stenographer	1
Salesman	5
Canvasser	25
Peddler	12
Tuner	22
Caner	12
Laborer	76
Housework	53
Lodgers	7
Home work	4
Carpenter	3
Machinist	3
Cabinet worker	1
Box maker	1
Upholsterer	1
Broom maker	2
Rug maker	1

Self-supporting, etc. — *Concluded.*

Mattress maker	1	
Shops for blind	168	
Hotel clerk	4	
Odd jobs	16	
Laundress	3	
Farmer	23	
Watchman	3	
Janitor	9	
Elevator man	2	
Messenger	1	
Newsboy	4	
Fisherman	2	
Gardener	3	
Housewife	305	
Federal pension	146	
Municipal pension	7	
State pension	5	
Pension from former employer	29	
Inmate of Soldiers' Home	6	
Inmate of home for aged (relief, 1)	84	
Member of religious order	1	
Inmate of home for blind (relief, 5)	18	
	—	1,797

Partially self-supporting		243
Income	68	
Teacher	1	
Pianist	8	
Canvasser	19	
Housework	43	
Home worker	12	
Odd jobs	23	
Lodgers	6	
Boarders	3	
Helper	12	
Caner	18	
Farmer	3	
Gardener	2	
Proprietor, variety store	1	
Postcard stand	1	
Milk route	1	
Net mender	1	
Bird raiser	1	
Department store clerk	1	
Shops for the blind	5	
Factory employee	5	
Newsboy	2	

Partially self-supporting — *Continued.*

Braille transcriber	2	
Candy stand	1	
Broom maker	3	
Basket maker	1	
Relief	117	
Relief pending	3	
No need	123	
Dependent upon relatives	868	
Relief	253	
Relief pending	48	
No need	567	
Dependent upon public aid	92	
Relief	56	
Relief pending	30	
No need	6	
Dependent upon private aid	40	
Relief	26	
Relief pending	1	
No need	13	
Mendicant	19	
Inmate of State institution	174	
Inmate of almshouse	135	
Inmate of city tuberculosis hospital	1	
	—	1,329
Minors:		
Attending Perkins Institution	200	
Pending Perkins Institution	15	
Attending Montreal School for the Blind	2	
Attending sight-saving classes	55 ¹	
Pending sight-saving class	11	
Attending public school	46	
Attending private school	6	
Attending college	2	
Employed	7	
At Blind Babies Nursery	9	
Pending Blind Babies Nursery	1	
At Children's Home	1	
At sanitarium	5	
At School for Feeble-minded	27	
At State institution	8	
At home	124	

¹ There are also in sight-saving classes 206 children with seriously defective eyesight, — vision better than one-tenth of normal.

Minors — *Concluded.*At home — *Concluded.*

Too young to attend school	38	
In poor health	28	
Feeble-minded	17	
Idiot	17	
Assisting with housework	10	
Pending employment	6	
Taught at home	6	
Refuses to attend school	2	— 519
		— 3,888
Blind		2,175
Partially blind		1,713
Married		2,094
Single		1,225
Minor		520
Unknown		49
Males		2,074
Females		1,814
Blind and deaf		93

Nationality by birth:

American	2,586
Irish	429
Canadian	256
English	126
Russian	111
Italian	96
French	55
German	39
Scotch	35
Portuguese	34
Swedish	28
Polish	23
Armenian	15
Syrian	10
Austrian	7
Finn	6
Greek	6
Norwegian	5
Dane	4
Turk	3
Lithuanian	3
Swiss	2
Belgian	2
Roumanian	2

Nationality by birth — *Concluded.*

Dutch	1
Bohemian	1
Hungarian	1
Chinese	1
Spanish	1

Causes of blindness:

Unknown	765
Cataracts	622
Accident	389
Optic atrophy	352
Glaucoma	331
Congenital	302
Corneal opacities	175
Disease	136
High myopia	94
Ophthalmia neonatorum	75
Iritis	72
Separation of retina	58
Old age	42
Measles	39
Albinism	39
Nystagmus	38
Retinitis pigmentosa	31
Choroiditis retinitis	29
Spinal meningitis	27
Trachoma	27
Diabetic retinitis	25
Scarlet fever	24
Brain tumor	17
Buphthalmos	16
Amblyopia	14
Disorganized globe	9
Influenza	9
Blocked pupil	10
Uveitis	10
Sunstroke	7
Convergent strabismus	7
Brain fever	7
Microphthalmus	6
Blood poison	6
Paralytic stroke	6
Dislocation of lens	6
Retinitis	5
Aniridia	5
Toxic amblyopia	4
Arteriosclerosis	4

Causes of blindness — *Concluded.*

Iridocyclitis	4
Smallpox	4
Staphyloma	3
Typhoid fever	3
Wood alcohol	3
Panophthalmitis	3
Neuritis of optic nerve	3
Rheumatic fever	2
Exophthalmic goitre	3
Neuro-retinitis	2
Diphtheria	2
Hyperopia	2
Shrunk globe	2
Lead poison	1
Dye poison	1
Central coloboma	1
Ptosis	1
Dacryocystitis	1
Anophthalmos	1
Pemphigus	1
Scrofula	1
Erysipelas	1
Conical corneæ	1
Membranous conjunctivitis	1
Malformation of eyes	1

Ages.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Under 5 years	52	1
From 6 to 20 years	471	12
From 21 to 50 years	1,088	28
From 51 to 70 years	1,206	31
Over 70 years	1,071	28

Summary.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Self-supporting	1,797	46
Partially self-supporting	243	6
Dependents	1,329	34
Minors	519	14
	3,888	100

FEDERAL PENSIONS SECURED FOR BLIND INDIVIDUALS OF
THIS STATE.

During the year Federal pensions were secured for 10 blind individuals by a special act of Congress, — 7 at the rate of \$20 per month, 1 at the rate of \$20 per month plus State aid at the rate of \$6 per month (sons and daughters of Civil War veterans), and 2 at the rate of \$30 per month; one was a Spanish War veteran and the other was a widow of a Civil War veteran. These last two cases took three years of constant effort before they were finally passed. A daughter of a Civil War veteran is now receiving \$36 a month through the Pension Bureau, and \$4 State aid, — help she might have enjoyed for the past thirty-five years had she known the law. The agent also secured soldiers' relief at the rate of \$10 per month for a widow of a Civil War veteran. In all instances these cases have been brought to the attention of the agent by the various field workers in this Division.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL FOR THE
BLIND AND MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING
THE INTERESTS OF THE ADULT BLIND.

The Division of the Blind is extremely indebted for the spirit of kindness, co-operation and concord which it has received from the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, and to the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind. The paternal interest shown by the Massachusetts Association in supplementing the work of the Division, in ways in which a State Department cannot function, is still in keeping with the true character of a foster parent.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

The total appropriation for the year ending Nov. 30, 1922, amounted to \$319,669.96. Through this appropriation the blind were enabled to earn \$111,943.65, an increase of \$5,587 over that of last year. This report is considered of such importance that it is given in full in the special reports.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES.

The Division has been in touch, during the fiscal year 1921-22, with 3,676 blind persons, 954 of whom were reported for the first time. This number includes, in addition to our register of blind and partially blind persons, a large group of children with seriously defective eyesight. Service has been rendered to 2,727 individuals, many of whom have been helped in several ways, as follows:—

1. Training given or expenses provided during training to	351
2. Employment given or secured for	230
3. Home industry secured, fostered by loans, equipment, use of salesroom, provision of guide, etc., for	227
4. Information and advice on medical care, special education, occupations, relief, Federal pensions, boarding places, etc., given to	1,325
5. Reported to general agencies	85
6. Recreations, symphony and other concerts, outings, vacations, gifts, music transcription, volunteer readers, etc., given by others through the Division to	507
7. Relief has been granted to	710
8. Visited in survey work, no need	733
9. Died, not blind, unable to locate, out of State, etc.	80

CONCLUSION.

The entire working staff of the Division has functioned in a way to deserve special commendation from the members of the Division. It is also indebted for the courtesies and interest manifested by administrative officials at the State House.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES B. HAYES.
EDWARD E. ALLEN.
WALTER B. SNOW.
AGNES C. TAFF.
ARTHUR C. COGGESHALL.
JOHN D. W. BODFISH.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES DEC. 1, 1921, TO NOV. 30, 1922.

Receipts.

Appropriation for general expense	\$67,699 08
Appropriation for industries	65,498 25
Appropriation for State home teachers	9,686 02
Appropriation for relief	86,300 00
Appropriation for sight-saving classes	10,000 00
Receipts at local shops (Fall River, Lowell, Pittsfield and Worcester)	43,343 20
Receipts from sale of home work stock and consignments	4,396 23
Receipts from industrial department (Cambridge)	193,161 94
	<hr/>
	\$480,084 72

Expenditures.

Pay roll, seeing:	
Administration	\$14,559 58
Local shops	5,780 46
Home work department	4 12
Industrial department	23,633 41
Home teachers, clerical work	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$43,992 57
Pay roll, blind:	
Administration	\$9,355 34
Industrial aid and local shops	26,042 25
Home teachers	4,800 00
Home work department	3,522 27
Industrial department	68,223 79
	<hr/>
	111,943 65
Relief to needy blind (710 individuals)	86,300 00
Sight-saving classes (20 classes)	10,000 00
Merchandise:	
Home teachers	\$516 33
Industrial aid and local shops	26,146 86
Home work department	1,530 27
Industrial department	142,667 02
	<hr/>
	170,860 48
Amount carried forward	<hr/>
	\$423,096 70

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$475,377 66	
Supplies:									
Home teachers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$20 54	
Administration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	372 83	
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	559 20	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,685 38	
								<hr/>	4,637 95
Postage:									
Home teachers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$76 31	
Administration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	361 76	
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	107 34	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	384 21	
								<hr/>	929 62
Printing:									
Administration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$206 90	
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	286 58	
Annual report	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	174 52	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	565 26	
								<hr/>	1,233 26
Advertising:									
Administration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$75 78	
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	136 58	
Industrial aid	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48 21	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	494 90	
								<hr/>	755 47
Power:									
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$108 04	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	644 44	
								<hr/>	752 48
Sundries:									
Administration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$104 67	
Industrial aid	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20 84	
Local shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	443 97	
Industrial department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	724 09	
								<hr/>	1,293 57
								<hr/>	\$484,980 01

HELEN F. O'LEARY,
Accountant.

DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT IN COMPETITION WITH THE SEEING.

FLORENCE W. BIRCHARD.

The slogan of "Help the Blind to Help Themselves" cannot be used to better advantage anywhere than in the department where blind and partly sighted men and women are asking only a chance to earn their own living.

If the taxpayers of Massachusetts realized that it is a much more efficient thing to believe in the capabilities of handicapped persons and help them to find a job suited to them than to hand out pity and pensions to those who have real earning capacity, the problems of this department would be much more easily solved. Able-bodied men and women without sight wish work and the wages which go with employment more than anything else in the world, and there is a handicap other than blindness when they prefer relief or pensions to independence through working for their bread and butter.

This department has been in touch with 208 blind or partly sighted people during the year, and on the last day of November, 93 of these were employed in gainful occupations; 18 had returned to Perkins Institution, although 9 of the 18 had worked during their summer vacation, caring for children as mothers' helpers, washing dishes in restaurants and caning chairs. This touch with the world is considered a very useful part of the pupils' education by the school director, Mr. Allen, and he is most co-operative in encouraging the undergraduates to make trial flights into the working world when it can be done wisely and without interfering with the education which is so essential to every one and to no one more than to a blind boy or girl. Eight of the entire number grew too feeble or were sick and so unable to work, and withdrew their applications for employment. Two were committed to the insane asylum and 2 more proved so feeble-minded as to prevent placement. Seven moved from the State and 1 died. Two proved themselves, after several trials, of such unstable

and poor character as not to warrant recommendation for further employment. One applicant was found to have too much sight to need help from the Division of the Blind. Seven refused the work offered, either because the hours were too long, work too heavy or the pay too small. One entered a soldiers' home and 3 came only for advice for the right sort of training and were put in touch with the proper opportunities. Two young men of the number are waiting for their respective factories to hire back after business depression. Each has been promised work when conditions permit, since they have given absolute satisfaction. Two others withdrew their applications for reasons other than sickness. One is living on compensation received from the Industrial Accident Board, and fears that if he went to work he would forfeit his compensation. Two are in college. One, after holding a position where she gave absolute satisfaction, gave it up because she was badly needed at home. Five have recently made no reply to letters of inquiry, and so must be considered as not in need of employment. One left work after a few days' trial because he found that he had no desire to work. One, after asking for employment and the job found almost immediately, disappeared from view and has never been located. Two of the 208 were inactive during 1922, but had not withdrawn their applications. Forty-six were still unemployed and needing work on November 30.

The jobs secured included work in candy, box, piano player action, valentine, piano, book bindery, shoe, leather, cigar and electric factories; second work in institution, baling paper, dishwashing, mothers' helper, messenger, office boy, dictaphone operator, power stitching, attendant to sick person, attendant in hospital and masseur in an institution. One new, and for that reason a particularly interesting, position was found in an overall factory working on a power stitcher, and although totally blind, the operator was a most useful and speedy worker, and when needed in her home was missed by the firm and will be welcomed back gladly if conditions are ever such that she feels the need of working again.

Visits and surveys of nearly 90 factories have been made during the year, and such surveys prove themselves valuable not only by showing what processes are open to sightless workers in the different industries, but also for the knowledge

secured which shows us what doors are closed because sight is necessary to the proper accomplishment of the process. More and more as this work goes on we are learning that the need is not to stress the lack of sight, but the natural ability of the worker. A letter just received from a man who has been working four years in a factory shows the value of placing competent blind persons at work side by side with seeing men and women. He said, "I noted that a few words spoken to John or Billy, Rose or Millie, during working hours brought home to the crew that I, too, like themselves, was an individual with capabilities of filling a useful place on this planet of ours, if only given a chance." We are asking "the chance" which is so much needed and so difficult to find.

WORK FOR CHILDREN.

IDA E. RIDGEWAY.

To-day earnest effort is made to prevent disaster, crime and general human wreckage by dealing with those who show early signs of mental, moral and physical ills. Not alone is personal and privately organized endeavor brought to bear, but the laws of country and State are struggling to build up a stronger and better people.

The law requiring the immediate reporting of cases of inflamed, swollen or red eyes in babies within two weeks after birth is practically stamping out blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum in Massachusetts. Of those pupils admitted to Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind during the year 1920-21 there were ten children whose blindness was caused by ophthalmia neonatorum, but only one of the number was from this State. In 1921-22 there were eight admitted whose blindness was due to this cause and again only one from Massachusetts. Considering that two-thirds of the pupils are Massachusetts children we can feel that our law is truly effectual.

Laws regarding tuberculosis, venereal diseases and prohibition should soon reduce the number of children whose vision is impaired by corneal opacities. This is a condition which usually comes as the result of constitutional disability caused by inherited disease or deprivation. Already it is obvious in our

schools that the child whose father was formerly "a good fellow" is better dressed and better nourished since prohibition became effective. With improved general health these children will be less susceptible to the eye diseases which may bring low vision or blindness.

The following statistics relate to children under seventeen years of age: —

Old cases dealt with	714
New cases reported	565
Registered	241
Responding to medical or surgical treatment or glasses and not registered	202
Recently reported and pending verification	122

Registered cases were reported from the following sources: —

Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary	119
Schools	51
Private ophthalmologists	12
Hospitals (other than Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear In- firmary)	7
Perkins Institution	5
Other sources, including private individuals, agencies, etc.	47
	<hr/>
	241

Visual ability in the 241 newly registered cases: —

Totally blind (cannot see light)	9
Due to optic atrophy (including 1 from brain tumor)	5
Due to disorganized eyeballs from some old inflammatory process	2
Due to buphthalmos	1
Due to undeveloped condition of eyes	1
Practically or partly blind ($20/200$ or less)	65
Seriously defective eyesight ($20/100$ or less)	26
Seriously defective eyesight ($20/70$ or less)	91

In the other 50 cases vision was better than $20/70$ or the amount undetermined on account of illiteracy, etc.

Causes of blindness and low vision in 241 registered cases: —

Myopia	70
Corneal opacities	45
Congenital cataracts	22
Astigmatism	19

Nystagmus	18
Atrophy of optic nerve	15
Strabismus	12
Albinism	9
Hyperopia	8
Aniridia	4
Chorio retinitis	3
Dislocation of crystalline lenses	3
Ptoxis	2
Disorganized globes	2
Disseminated choroiditis	2
Panophthalmitis	1
Buphthalmos	1
Retinitis pigmentosa	1
Choroiditis	1
Coloboma of iris and choroid	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1
Amblyopia	1

More than 1,200 visits to homes and schools have been made for the purpose of helping to secure better medical and educational advantages.

Admitted to sight-saving classes	81
Admitted to Perkins Institution	19
Admitted to Boston Nursery for Blind Babies	4

Two new classes for conservation of vision have been opened during the year, one in East Boston and one in Somerville, making 20 classes in the State. There are 261 children enrolled. Large-typed textbooks have been supplied to 28 children in ordinary grade schools.

The supervisor of children's work gave five lectures on "the eye, conditions and diseases conducive to blindness and low vision" in the course for teachers of the blind under the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Three other talks on prevention of blindness and care of the blind child were also given. A set of six posters on prevention of blindness was sent to the Peace Exposition at Tokio, Japan.

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

This is an extension course consisting of lectures accompanied by demonstrations and practical exercises for teachers of the blind and the semi-sighted and workers with the adult blind.

This course is conducted by the Graduate School of Education, with the co-operation of the Massachusetts Department of Education, Division of the Blind, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind. It was given for the first time in 1920-21.

Mr. Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind and secretary of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, will conduct the course and give a majority of the lectures. With Mr. Allen will be associated Mr. Charles B. Hayes, Director of the Division of the Blind, Massachusetts Department of Education. Other students of problems of the blind and workers for the blind will give occasional lectures dealing with special topics.

The course is designed to give in a short period a comprehensive survey of work with the blind and the semi-sighted. It will emphasize the problems which arise in the teaching of the blind. The course will meet regularly for lectures and class discussions on Fridays, from 4 to 5. Demonstrations will be conducted in institutions in the vicinity of Cambridge on Saturday mornings. The opportunities for observation and practice are ample and valuable. The hours have been arranged to make it possible for teachers, school nurses, public health nurses, social workers, and volunteers, whose interests already include work with the blind, as well as for those wishing to fit themselves for service in this special field, to attend both the lectures and the demonstrations.

Reading will be assigned to accompany the lectures, and reports of the demonstrations and practical exercises will be required for those who wish credit for the course. Perkins Institution has a very complete and probably unique collection of literature on the blind, and this will be open to students in the course.

The first meeting of the course was held on Friday, October 6, in Room 12, Lawrence Hall, Kirkland Street, Cambridge, Mass. With the exception of the Friday and Saturday

following Thanksgiving and the Friday and Saturday which fall within Christmas week, the course will meet weekly up to and including Friday, January 26. A three-hour examination will cover the work of the course at its conclusion.

So far as time permits, the following topics, and possibly others, will be covered by the lectures and reading: —

The Blind of the Past and of To-day; Types of Blindness; Sketches of Celebrated Blind People; What the Public should know about the Blind; Recreations and Pastimes among Blind People; The Social Status of the Blind; Literature on Blindness and Low Vision; History and Progress of the Movement for the Prevention of Blindness; The Human Eye and the Causes of Blindness and Low Vision; Public and Private Provision for the Blind; Home Teaching for the Adult; History of the Education of the Blind; Means and Methods used in Teaching; Education of the Blind Child: before School Age, in Residential Schools, in Public Day Schools; Psychology of Blindness and of the Blind; The Socialization of the Blind Child; The Teacher of the Blind; School Curricula; The Teaching of School Subjects; Border-line Pupils; The Deaf Blind; The Movement for the Separate Teaching of the Semi-sighted; The Evolution of Embossed Systems of Reading; Libraries of Embossed Books; Vocational Training and Employment of the Blind.

